

The English News Magazine of the Diocese of Taiwan



BISHOP'S LETTER

Sometimes New Year reminds me of my school days when our teachers would always ask us about our hopes and wishes for the new year. At

that time, growing up in a Buddhist / folk religion family, I never thought that I would ever become a Christian and certainly never dreamed that I would become a pastor! In 1964, I was converted and baptized in St. Paul's Church, Kaoh-

siung. Now as a Christian I pray and thank God for his mercy, his forgiveness, redemption and for his amazing grace. That is why I still survive until today!

Because of my personal experience, and because of the teaching of the Bible, I have chosen the theme of 'worshiping the Lord with one's heart' to welcome in the New Year. Proverbs 29:18 says: 'Where there is no prophecy, the people cast off restraint, but happy are those who keep the law' and v.23 says: 'A person's pride will bring humiliation, but one who is lowly in spirit will obtain



Happy children at St. Peter's Kindergarten take part in the Chia-Yi Band Festival on December 26, 2009 with their Noah's Ark theme!

honor.’ I ask the Holy Spirit to guide and help us to worship the Lord truly with our hearts. This is the theme for the Diocese of Taiwan for 2010.

I am inspired by the witness of the apostle Paul, who when he accepted the calling of the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus, threw off everything, and as he says in Philippians 3:8-9, ‘I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.’ Paul was certainly a true and loyal servant of the Lord, and I am moved by his faith, witness and enthusiasm for the gospel. He is so honest in his writings, so loyal and so humble that I know I can trust him. After his conversion, his life turned round 180 degrees, and he became a servant of Christ. Statues of Paul often show him with a sword in his hand, reminding us that the word of the Lord is like a sharp sword, cutting deeply to our bones and to our souls and minds. It also reminds us that God is Almighty and there are no secrets hidden from God.

Throughout our history, we have seen many kings, emperors, scholars and leaders who have stood against our faith and tried to destroy it. But no matter what policy or what method they have followed to try to destroy our faith, all these opponents of our faith have now died, and yet the church still continues to proclaim the gospel and keeps growing around the world. In 2007 I understand that there were 2468 translations of the Bible in print around the world. The Bible has influenced life and attitudes throughout history. It is the Book of Truth and God’s Word. So obeying the teachings, reading the Bible daily and examining our hearts before God, these help us to worship the Lord with all our heart. We need 2 or 3 meals every day, in the same way we also need regular intake of spiritual food.

During this year, I want to remind everyone how we can be a good witness, especially in the area of worshiping God with our hearts. We are the people of God, and our worship

is a witness to our local community. Our relatives, friends and neighbors do not have X-rays to see inside us to see if we are truly worshiping God with our hearts, but through our relationships and our behavior, they can sense whether our worship is true or not. The 2 great commandments, ‘love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind and with all your soul’, and ‘love your neighbor as yourself’, are a challenge and a witness. There is a famous Chinese saying that is often used in Taiwan to describe religious people who worship with only their mouths, not with their hearts. When non-Christians see that we are truly sincere and devout, then they are challenged by our behavior and may even convert and become Christians.

I encourage our brothers and sisters in our churches to obey the Lord in all of our lives, to be humble, to be of the same mind and will, to attend all the spiritual courses that nourish our faith, and to open our homes for cell groups—to show the light of Christ shining from our hearts and homes into the local community. People in our modern society need to ‘lie down in still waters’ as it says in Psalm 23:2, and to experience the joy and peace that Christ brings. May we worship the Lord truly with our hearts and may we know the joy and peace experienced by Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:10: ‘But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.’

The coming year may well bring difficult challenges, rough patches and problems. No matter how difficult, how rough, how changeable, I do believe that God’s mercy is sufficient for us. Psalm 23:4 reminds us that ‘Your rod and your staff, they comfort me’. We believe and trust God’s power, and that his rod and staff will give us strength and victory in our daily lives.

Happy New Year!

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY NEWS

The Diocese of Taiwan's Commission on Ministry met on November 5, 2009, and the Standing Committee met on December 17. The results of these meetings are that 3 people have now been accepted by the diocese.

Mrs. Julia Lin, presently at St. Stephen's Mission in Keelung, was accepted for ordination. She was ordained deacon on Saturday November 21 at St. John's Cathedral, supported by family, friends and 2 coach loads of people from Keelung. The children of St. Stephen's sang a song during the service, as did the young people of Trinity Church, Keelung. Congratulations Julia!

Mr. Paul Lai, elder son of Bishop and Mrs. Lai, and just starting his third year at General Seminary, New York, USA was ac-

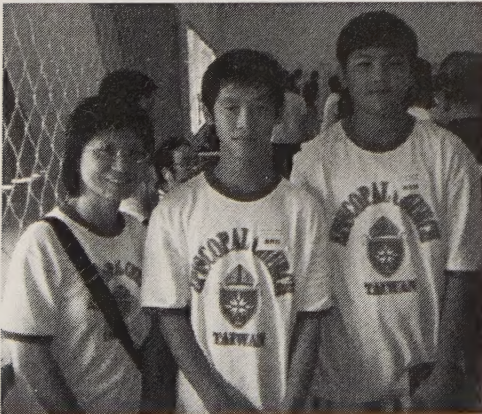
cepted as a candidate for ordination. It is intended that he will serve as a missionary priest from the Diocese of Taiwan to the Episcopal Church in USA. He took his General Ordination Examination over 4 days in the first week of January. Once he has graduated from seminary, he will prepare to serve his first curacy, which could be anywhere in the USA. Congratulations Paul!

Mr. Tan Kevin Liang-Chern, junior warden at St. John's Cathedral, and presently already studying at Fu-Jen University in Taipei, was accepted as a postulant. Mr. Tan intends to serve as a part-time priest, and hopes to continue his theological studies to Masters and possibly even PhD level.

ECUMENICAL TABLE-TENNIS COMPETITION

November 7, 2009 saw lots of Christians of all denominations from all over northern Taiwan gathering at the YMCA in Shilin, Taipei for the annual sports day.

This year we had a Table-Tennis Competition. Teams from Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopal and Methodist churches were represented. The photos show the young people from Advent Church who took part. The competition was divided into groups for dif-



ferent ages, and for men and women. There was also a competition for church workers: clergy, pastors, evangelists etc and their spouses. Congratulations to Rev. Sam Cheng who came overall first in the church workers men's competition, and to Bishop Lai who came third. Congratulations to Mrs. Nancy Liao who came second in the church workers women's competition. Several of our younger church members gained prizes in the youth competitions. Congratulations to all!

EUCCHARIST AT CHANG-RUNG UNIVERSITY, TAINAN

By Rev. Keith Lee

Under Taiwan law, the only theological qualifications recognized by the Taiwan government are those obtained from a recognized university. Theological colleges (unless they are part of a university) therefore do not qualify, and unfortunately Tainan Theological College, where many of our seminarians do their training, is in this category.

Exciting news in recent months is that the academic degrees in theology awarded by the newly-established Department of Theology at the Presbyterian-run Chang-Rung University, Tainan are about to be recognized by the government. This department was only founded 2 years ago, so there are only first and second year students so far. The Department of Theology is striving to upgrade to become a "Theological Seminary", and will exist as a professional, independent institute, although still under the frame and organization of the university. It will be quite different from other independent theological seminaries in Taiwan.

On December 10, 2009, the Department of Theology at Chang-Rung University invited the Taiwan Episcopal Church to hold an Episcopalian Eucharist in their students' common worship time.

Bishop David Lai was the celebrant and the preacher, while Rev. Samuel Liao, Rev. Sam Cheng, Rev. Leo Tzeng, Mr. James Su, Mr. Simon Tsou and myself were all present and assisted with the service. Some clergy spouses and some ladies of Grace Church also came to the university and participated in the service.

The service was held in a big room located in the basement of the students' activity center. About 80 Christian students and some



professors as well as both the university president and vice-president attended the service.

The service started at 3:30 pm, and everything went very smoothly and successfully; all students and staff who were present at the service also received Holy Communion. After the ser-

vice, the president of the university, the Rev. Dr. C. Y. Wang, gave us special thanks on behalf of the university, and also presented a souvenir to us.

Then followed by Q & A time with the students. The students wanted to know about the liturgy and the Episcopal Church, and their questions were very enthusiastically asked. Some of their questions included: What does a bishop do? What are the meanings of clergy's liturgical vestments and robes? What is the meaning of the Signum Crucis (making the sign of the cross on head, shoulders, and chest)? What are the meanings of lighting candles? What kind of Eucharistic advocacy or stand do Episcopal/Anglican Church claim? They also asked about the church season colours, common prayer book, some sacraments...etc. The person who answered their questions was Rev. Samuel Liao; he gave clear, detailed, professional answers to all questions, and all the students learned a lot from Rev. Liao. The whole event finished around 5:30 pm.

We all had a special experience of introducing our church's characteristic and special features to others, especially to these young students. We hope that more Taiwanese Christians could know more about the Episcopal Church, and not only understand us through this way (a service), but also through our mission, social service, and educational work. May all glory be to God, our heavenly Father.

WHAT A WONDERFUL MESSIAH CONCERT!

By Rev. Charles C. T. Chen

Although I have been a Christian for many years, ever since my retirement as Episcopal priest at St. James' Church in Taichung, I have never had an opportunity to attend a performance of The Messiah during the Christmas season. So it was with much gratitude and beyond my expectation that last year just before Christmas, on December 20th, 2009, my wife, Mary Jo and I were treated to appreciate a prestigious Messiah performance at the National Music Theatre in Taipei. With enormous eagerness and overwhelming anticipation, we travelled to Taipei in the early afternoon by High Speed Rail very specially for this entertainment because Mr. Axel Van Chee (son of my good friends, the Rev. and Mrs. Canon David Chee) was going to perform the role of baritone in The Messiah Concert.

Axel Van Chee, bass, (sitting far right in the photo) was really a marvelous baritone invited from America to Taiwan by the National Taiwan Choir in Taipei for this very special occasion. After finishing a degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of California in Berkley with a minor in music, Axel has made a life out of singing in operas. He is now a Master's student of Architecture at the University of Toronto and has also studied vocal music in Salzburg, Austria under the instruction of Dominic Cossa. He has toured with opera companies, orchestras and choral societies in Europe and North America, with a repertoire ranging from Monteverdi to Puccini to Pärt. It is one hundred percent truth that the acclaimed lyric baritone Axel Van Chee is "a resonant baritone with striking stage presence" (Opera News), a "generous, solid baritone with tremendous physical grace" (San Francisco Classical Voice), and a singer with "high musical sophistication and dramatic intensity" (San Francisco Chronicle).



We, around 100 or more Episcopalians, gathered and met with one another in the theatre and many warm greetings were extended at the intermission of the first performance. At the point of finishing the performance, all of us gathered and met at the gate parlor, and an impressive blessing and prayer was said extemporaneously by Bishop David Lai. Later on, everyone was invited to the Diocesan Office and there was a tea party set and ready with a bottle of champagne opened by the Rev. Peter Chen, the former chief of Taiwan Railway Bureau (also the spokesman of Taiwan Diocese) for felicitating and congratulating Axel on his successful performance.

Incidentally, we at St. James' Church in Taichung were so fortunate that Axel could be with us on Christmas Eve for the Eucharist and Light Service and we all appreciated his extraordinary devotional solo. Certainly all of us look forward to having another exclusive opportunity to enjoy his beautiful and elegant baritone singing next year whether in Taichung or in Taipei.

May the Lord bestow upon us this grace next year at the very happy and blessed season of Christmas, culminating in the big celebration of the great birth of our redeemer, the Lord of lords and the King of kings. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

A Journey of Learning and Reflection: Rev. Philip Lin
A term at Ming-Hua Theological College, Hong Kong: Sept-Dec. 2009
Translated by Amy Wang

Visiting Anglican parishes in Hong Kong has been such a great learning opportunity! I feel more than thankful to have had this privilege to attend the Province of Hong Kong Ming-Hua Theological College (香港明華神學院) for a term of study. I really appreciate the invitation from Archbishop Paul Kwong (鄭保羅大主教), the support of Bishop David Lai, the pastoral care and hospitality of the churches in Hong Kong, and the assistance and help of the leaders of St. James' Church in Taiwan and their willingness to take on a bigger load of church work during my stay in Hong Kong. Lastly, I want to thank my family, especially my wife Linda, who had to take care of our two young children on her own.

There are many things worthwhile sharing with you, and I am dividing them into three parts: firstly, my study in Ming-Hua Theological College; secondly, visiting a variety of churches; lastly, on my learning of service.

I. My study at the SKH Ming-Hua Theological College:

My main goal for this learning program was to have a period of short-term study, majoring in Liturgical Theology. Liturgy is the central point of our theology and religious life for us Anglicans. Owing to my training background at the Fu-Jen Roman Catholic University Faculty of Theology (輔大神學院), I was well-trained liturgically. Nevertheless, studying at Ming-Hua Theological College not only helped me in reviewing the spirit and concept of liturgy, but it also expanded my knowledge in the field of interpreting what I have already learned in the Anglican Church. It was really exciting to have this exposure of studying theology in a pure Anglican setting. This study has ad-



Rev. Philip Lin (left) with Archbishop Paul Kwong and Diocesan Secretary Rev Peter Koon

vanced my theological understanding of why the Anglican Church is called 'catholic' and part of the catholic tradition.

I want to mention one person to whom I need to give many thanks, the Principal, the Very Rev. Ian Lam. In order to help the pastors from Taiwan and Mainland China, he has made a special effort to use Mandarin Chinese when teaching, which I personally greatly benefited from. He himself seems to me an ideal Anglican priest. He is not just a scholar of Liturgy, rather, he is the type of person who passes down the heritage of the Anglican spirit. He eagerly wishes that Anglicanism can be inherited by the next generation and he hopes that whoever comes to this college to study will be able to express this spirit in their pastoral ministry and in their Christian lives. I was greatly touched by his attitude. Knowing this person has really broadened my understanding about the Anglican Church.

In my study of Liturgy, I was enlightened in a wonderful way. Liturgy is not merely some ritual form or action. It is the meaning behind the outer forms that carries the meaning: "Liturgy is an expression of our faith". What makes it significant is not because of what we express in the appearance but why we express it in that style. When we gain new understanding of Liturgical Theology (禮儀神學), it will affect our actions (liturgical manner). An extravagant liturgy does not necessarily mean it is good worship. We might end up expressing something which is completely out of date or does not even fit the mainstream custom. A humble heart is a must when accepting new concepts and changes. I think Pastor Lam is a real treasure for the Hong Kong Anglican Communion. He is also the consultant on liturgy for the entire province.

II. Exchange Of Church Experiences

In Taiwan, among our Anglican churches, we have an inside joke "large denomination-small church" (because the Taiwan Episcopal Church is considered very small). The Anglican Church is a church with its own

tradition, but for historical reasons, there are not a lot of Anglican churches in Taiwan. Thus, not many Taiwanese Christians have exposure to our church culture. In contrast, in Hong Kong due to its historical background and the vision of retired Bishop Kwong (鄺廣傑), the Anglican Churches have formed their own province and play a significant role in society. In the field of education, the Anglican Church has earned such a reputation that whenever someone is considering sending their children to a good school, the first choice they would go for is a school established by the Anglicans. "Anglican church school" is almost a logo for "the best", from kindergarten level to high school. Another area in which they actively serve the society is Social Welfare. The Anglican Churches have served society in a wide range of ministries including service to the elderly.

I spent lots of time after my classes on church visitation, visiting a total of 14 churches during my stay in Hong Kong. I would like to especially thank the pastors and church workers for their hospitality.



St. John's Cathedral, Hong Kong

I would particularly like to share about one church I visited: St. Peter's and the pastor, the Rev. Gwo (郭志丕牧師). The reason why I was so interested is that their Home Group Ministry is really flourishing. Ten years

ago, Pastor Gwo felt that the church was growing too slowly, then the total congregation was only about 100. He started to build up home groups at this church. As a result over the last 10 years they have grown to become a church of more than 400 people. Pastor Gwo takes it seriously in building up the disciples through training courses, so he also has developed their own training system. Their training process does not only cover the area of biblical knowledge but practical skills in serving (e.g. officiant, personal evangelism), attitudes and values (e.g. Anglicans; Christian values). It happened to be their Celebration Day for the Home Groups on the day when I made this special visitation. I witnessed their life testimony of how they have benefited from church home groups and have overcome their problems in their daily lives; how they have experienced grace in trusting our Lord, and as a result, they have displayed true faith in their growing process.

We need every member to be involved, instead of one single pastor for serving our churches. I think the crucial task for our church is the demand of providing training for our church members to encourage their growth in the Lord as a disciple. This will make our evangelistic work grounded in the Lord, which can then be carried out in a rapid and wide-spreading way. In both Hong Kong and Taiwan, most Anglican

Philip (below right) and his clergy friends at St. Paul's Church, Hong Kong



churches are traditional ones. Though they keep growing, they probably "grow old" faster! If we value training our members as an important matter, eventually we could receive the fruit of evangelism. We need to be able to search

for strategies for spreading the Gospel, like at St. Peter's Church, then we can organize our experiences and pass this heritage down to the next generation. I believe this will not be merely a copy of "Emmaus", rather, it will fit our Chinese church experience.

III. Learning of Serving Skills

In Hong Kong, my internship was serving at St. John's Cathedral. This is the first church built in Hong Kong and has a 150-year history. I was truly touched with an unforgettable memory here; it is as if I were completely drawn by God himself, and the only thing I could do was to bow down and bend my knees in front of my Lord! St. John's Cathedral indeed is such a touching place where you may easily find His Holy presence. I think that it reflects what Jesus said: "'It is written,' he said to them, 'My house will be a house of prayer'" (Luke 19:46).

At the cathedral, there are six services on Sundays, and I usually participated in the Mandarin Service often as Celebrant or preacher, coordinating with Rev. Guan (管浩鳴牧師). I really appreciated working under the leadership of Rev. Chen (陳謳明法政牧師) and Rev. Guan (管浩鳴牧師) both of whom gave me tremendous help. I felt very honored and touched because I was

given this opportunity to participate in those services as a priest. I was able to be there not because I hold any position or am any better than others in this world, but simply because I am chosen by Him. What a grace that brought me back to the very beginning of my calling (聖召). It is not because of what I can do for the Lord, but because His love for me is so deep that I feel I have nothing that I can give in return. The only thing that I can give is myself; humbly serving Him in response to His great love.

This kind of experience has also enlightened me of the mind-set of the UNIVERSALITY of the Anglican Communion. This enables me to easily meet and serve with others at different churches. I was invited to preach at St. Paul's Church and Lee Kau Yan Secondary School (李球恩中學) which was quite a challenge to me. St. Paul's Church is a Cantonese-speaking church (and I only speak Mandarin); at the Lee Kau Yan Secondary School, I learned

to preach to a congregation of junior high and high school students. Thank you Pastor Ian Lam and Principal Lai (賴炳華校長)! Their trust in me allowed me to share the gospel with such a variety of people.

IV. Conclusion

Thank God that He works all things out for those who love Him. This journey to Hong Kong has been a precious and unforgettable experience for me. It is very touching too that it has stretched my knowledge and spirit unto a brand new horizon. The Anglican Communion in Taiwan and Hong Kong share lots of similarities such as our race, language, and culture. We have commercial relationships and geographically, Hong Kong and Taiwan are very near each other. Hence I think that we can work more closely with each other, even in the field of evangelism!

May we serve our Lord in one spirit, and glory be to our God!

The Osaka-Taiwan Exchange Committee of the Osaka Diocese

Rev. Akira Peter Iwaki

Chairman of the Committee, Diocese of Osaka

It has been almost 6 years since we started the companionship with the Taiwan Episcopal Church. In 2005, our diocese set up a committee specifically assigned to promote the companionship and exchange projects between the two dioceses.

The Committee consists of seven members, including three clergymen, and meets once in two months to discuss the possibilities and details of the projects. Sometimes we study the situation in Taiwan and the history of the relationship between Japan and Taiwan, and mainland China. We find both positive and negative heritage from our history. We have been responsible to welcome Bishop Lai from Taiwan several times, and some other friends to Osaka. I am very grateful to God for letting me have a good

chance to make friends with Taiwanese sisters and brothers, especially Bishop Lai. I cannot forget the time spent in a hotel room with the bishop, who served me tea with his own kettles and cups.

Right now, we are preparing to organize a tour group from St. Thomas Church in April, and to receive a tour group of Taiwanese kindergarten teachers in May. We warmly welcome you. We are planning to organize some visits to our kindergartens and a meeting with the Japanese kindergarten teachers. You can also expect a tour with us providing a special guide to our old cities, such as Nara and Kyoto.

We are looking forward to seeing you here in Osaka.

DIOCESAN CHINESE PRAYER BOOK REVISION

Rev. David Chee

Historically, the Diocese of Taiwan started using Chinese translations of the (1979) Trial Use liturgies (mainly the Daily Offices, one Eucharistic Prayer and the Collects) that were translated by the late Rev. Andrew Huang who was then head of the Worship Department of the Diocesan Executive Council. After the 1979 BCP became canonical, Fr. Huang continued to further translate some other parts of the now new Book of Common Prayer (BCP) only as necessitated by circumstances. Some clergy had to do their own translations for the specific needs/purposes of their congregation, like my translating the Easter Vigil for the first such service in Taiwan held in Holy Trinity, Keelung (1983) where I was vicar. Then in the 80's, the northern clergy made BCP translation the agenda at our regular clergy meetings. That was the first of collective efforts at BCP translation started during the time of Bishop P. Y. Cheung and which continued into the time of Bishop John Chien. It did not then even carry the name of a translation committee.

Then I left for the USA where I was invited to join in the BCP Chinese translation (committee) of the 90's-period on the other side of the Pacific. The office of the Episcopal Asian Ministry under the Rev. Dr. Winston Ching in our New York headquarters pushed at one time for a collaboration between the Diocese of Taiwan and the US Chinese Prayer Book Translation Committee to produce one Chinese BCP for the ECUSA. It did not materialize due to different needs. Taiwan was interested in

getting some local needs/use such as certain indigenized funeral rites incorporated into the Book while the USA group was merely interested in just producing a translation of the American Book, and was against any other inclusions. Moreover, the US translation group was in my opinion, somewhat over-zealous at times about employing its form of "in-the-middle Chinese" that would allow the written language to be read also in Cantonese, which was the dialect of most of the parishes in the US then, and so it was quite justifiable. The clergy-translators were all Cantonese except for myself.

Meetings to co-operate quickly broke down, and soon both sides were into producing their own book. It was clear that unlike Taiwan, a Chinese version to some parts of the BCP was quite unnecessary to the Chinese Episcopal churches in the USA, for example, the Episcopal Services (ordinations, consecration of churches etc.), since only English would be used. These and some others were therefore often not translated collaboratively but simply by in-



Diocesan Office first floor meeting room:
Team 1: Translation Committee in full swing

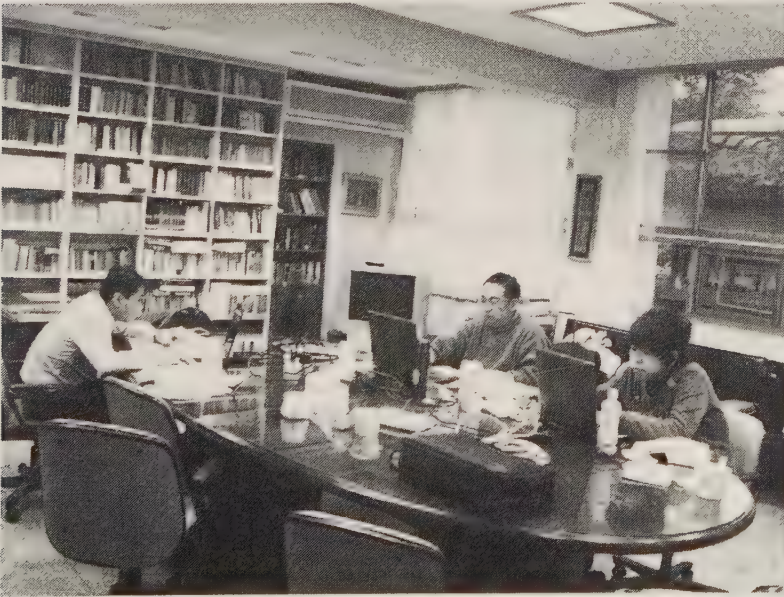
dividuals. The American Chinese BCP was completed and produced before I returned to Taiwan.

Back in Taiwan, I discovered that translation and re-translation work have continued through the years. A new Book containing major parts of the BCP was produced for trial use, and in particular, for trial use at St. John's Cathedral. Since its been some time (years) that the 1979 Chinese BCP has been on trial use, an effort by Bishop David Lai was made recently to speed up, end the work and produce a complete, final, and official version. I was asked to be on a new committee recently convened, and it has been working literally day and night, on the average of three days a week in the diocesan house. Other members of this "Prayer Book (Chinese) Revision Committee" are the Revds. Charles Chen, Samuel Liao, Peter Chen and Lily Chang plus a team of supporting staff consisting of theological students, parish workers, and missionaries working behind the scenes on computers. Its been nearly thirty working days since we started in November going over every sin-

gle rubric and liturgical text checking for accuracy, consistency and rewriting many parts. Thank God for the help of computer technology, the power point, enabling all to sit around the table to focus on the corrections and re-compositions as they are being made onscreen.

It has been fun for me to be actively involved again in translation. Our group jests and hollers as much as we engage each other in serious discussion or stay in silent thought. We certainly often divert into conversations on how things have been done at different times in our short (diocesan) history, and how certain practices came to be or should be paid some attention to etc. The fact that we are all retired clergy other than Lily, who is the vice-head of the Worship Department and heads our supporting team, adds a certain flavor to our work together. As can be anticipated, we are often confronted with challenges of theological accuracy versus cultural interpretation, translation correctness versus (Chinese) literary beauty, and differing pastoral experiences highlighting differing contextual interpreta-

tions. What to sacrifice when incompatible became the source of some of the most animated discussion. All in all, I believe we are into getting a very good book, and not surprisingly so, since we do have the benefit of more of other translations for reference before us than prior efforts. With days and days of working together, it will not be surprising if we would start to miss each other once the work gets all done by the upcoming diocesan convention in March – the target time for closure.



Meanwhile on the third floor of the Diocesan Office: Team 2 work on the finer details of the BCP (Team 3 are translating the rubric, they start at 9:00 pm and meet by video conference lasting into the early hours, hence no photo!)

TYPHOON MORAKOT UPDATE from Bishop David Lai

It is now 6 months since the devastation of Typhoon Morakot on August 8, 2009. Since then we have been privileged to experience an outpouring of love and care, prayer and support from our friends all over the world. We are deeply grateful to churches, dioceses, bishops and all individuals who have supported us through financial donations and through letters, e-mails and prayers.

At the end of October 2009, I gathered all our clergy from all over the diocese to participate in our autumn retreat. I decided to take them up to the area worst affected by Typhoon Morakot. I wanted them to have the chance to see and experience for themselves the devastation caused by the typhoon, as well as to pray and share about our ministry there and our vision for the future.

I took our clergy to visit Shiao-Lin, a village almost totally destroyed by the typhoon. The remains of over 400 bodies continue to lie buried under 20-30 meters of thick mud and debris. Around the periphery of the devastated area was plenty of evidence that local Buddhists and Taoists had been there to pray, but it was also very clear that few, if anyone, had ventured into the actual area where the bodies remain buried. People are too scared to walk there, but it was most moving for me to walk with our clergy all over. There was still the rotting smell of decaying bodies hanging in the air. We held a short service, using the words from the liturgy for Ash Wednesday.

A second most moving experience was for us to meet with the local Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Pan and his wife. His testimony is tremendous. Aged 76, he can testify to two amazing miracles of healing earlier in his life, and now he has had a third miracle, that of being saved during the typhoon. On the night of the typhoon, he and his wife were staying in his home at a

nearby camp, located over 50 meters from the river. That night his camp, his home and everything he owned there were destroyed, washed away in the floods. He and his wife clung for their lives to a pillar in the middle of their tea-pavilion. They were preparing to bind themselves together with rope so that when they died, at least they would die together. They were overwhelmed with mud and water, debris and parts of their house as it was washed away in front of them. Amazingly, they survived, and now they are full of praise to God!

The typhoon destroyed Shiao-Lin Elementary School and all the children have now transferred to the other two schools in the area, Jia-Shian and Bao-Rong. St. Timothy's Church were already doing some work with these schools before the typhoon, but the school principals had warned them not to do any evangelism among the children. Now however the school principals realize how much the children need spiritual help and they can see that we are serious about helping the children; their attitudes have softened considerably, and they now warmly welcome our clergy and church teams into their schools specifically to help with the spiritual needs of the children. On Tuesdays and Fridays from 7:30-8:00 am, we have been given the responsibility for taking classes for all the children, sharing Bible stories and moral teaching. The school principals have also given us the names of 16 families who were badly affected by the typhoon, and who need spiritual and material help. Our teams have already visited these families and are already helping them.

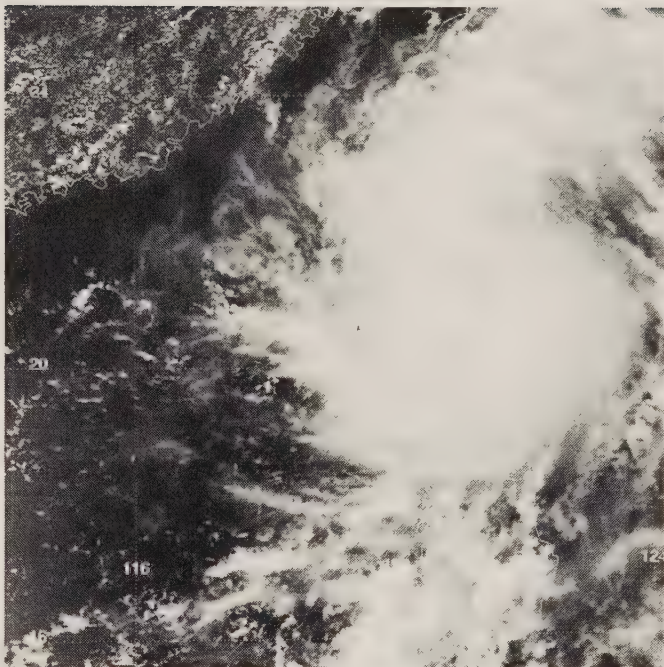
This whole area, Jia-Shian Township, is about 90 minutes drive from St. Timothy's Church, Kaohsiung, so as our outreach ministry developed, we started to look around for a place to rent to have a more permanent base in the local community. In early November 2009, I heard from Rev Justin Lin,

Rector of St. Timothy's Church, that he had signed the lease to rent an apartment in Jia-Shian. This will be the base for all our outreach activities. We praise God that our dream has now started to become a reality!

The apartment is in a high-rise apartment complex, and actually consists of 2 stories, on the 12th and 13th floors. The 13th floor is reached by stairs from within the 12th floor apartment, and from the 13th floor people can look down from a sort of balcony onto the 12th floor. The view outside is spectacular, over the mountains and the river. The total area is 45 pings, about 1620 square feet. Its main feature is that the 12th floor is one large open space, and ideal for church activities. There are 2 bathrooms and a kitchen, and the 13th floor is ideal for living accommodation for a church worker. The basic rent is NT\$ 5,000 per month which with management fees, water and electricity will be a total of about NT\$ 8,000 per month (about US\$ 250). There are 4 apartments on each floor, and the amenities include gym, snooker, spa, so it is remarkable that it is so cheap! The apartment was originally used as a cram school for after-school classes, so the other residents are well-used to seeing and hearing large groups of children around. Youth activities among the nearby high school children have already started, and we look forward to more and more outreach.

At present, Rev. Justin Lin, Rector of St. Timothy's is in overall charge of the Jia-Shian outreach, with lay worker Mr. Arthur Sung Yao-Chong taking day-to-day responsibility. Evangelist Simon Tsou, newly graduated from seminary, takes charge of Tuesday morning outreach, and Evangelist James Su takes charge of Fridays. It is actually a project for the whole southern deanery. Please do pray for them.

Typhoon Morakot



The school principals in Jia-Shian, both elementary and high schools, said that in the first weeks after the typhoon, there were many organizations and people on the ground to help, but now they have all left, unwilling to stay for the long-term. They are now so grateful to us for what we are doing, and have opened their hearts and minds to welcome us. We have a great opportunity, and we do ask for your prayers and support. The money that you kindly donated to our Typhoon Relief Fund will be used in these projects, and we wish again to repeat our heartfelt thanks to all of you who have helped us.

We also thank God that this ministry has the blessing and prayer support of both the local churches, one Presbyterian and one Little Flock, both of which are small and not very strong.

We give thanks to God for his provision and his many blessings. Please do join us in prayer for this new outreach.

JIA-SHIAN 甲仙 THANKSGIVING SERVICE: January 23, 2010

By Catherine Lee

Night is falling as I arrive at St. Timothy's Church, Kaohsiung. My arrival coincides with the arrival of the St. Timothy's minibus van back from a 2-day trip to Jia-Shian. The 10 church members are full of praise and thanksgiving for the children's holiday camp they have just led at Jia-Shian Primary School (see right photo). 108 children came along, over a third of the total number of children in the school. The church members had stayed overnight at the new apartment in Jia-Shian, but still they were glad to get home. Not that they were to get any rest just yet! Home they all went; only to start cooking for the potluck meal (known here in Taiwan as 'one family, one dish') we were to have the next day after the Jia-Shian Thanksgiving Service.



The next morning, Saturday, we leave at 8:00 am. Bishop Lai and his wife, Lily, have arrived by car the night before, and now we gather with the church members, all the food, and everything we need for a Thanksgiving Service. I go with Bishop and Lily Lai with the St. Timothy's churchwarden, Mr. Chuang and his wife in their car. We drive north out of Kaohsiung on the motorway, until we hit the smaller roads. We're heading up a very wide valley with mountains on both sides, and a small stream running down the middle. During the typhoon this whole valley was a roaring raging torrent of water. We hit Mei-Nung, a large Hakka town famous for its paper umbrellas and Hakka delicacies. What looks like a newly-built town hall from a distance turns out to be a Mormon church. Once past Mei-Nung, it starts to get more interesting. A large group of men and women in distinctive blue uniforms are working by the side of the road. They are from Tzu-Chi, the Buddhist Relief Organization, building houses for the victims of the typhoon. Next door and further up the road is a large Red Cross camp full of pre-fabricated houses, for the typhoon victims too.



Our Jia-Shian apartment—on the top floor!

As we get nearer to Jia-Shian, there is much evidence that all is not normal. It looks a bit like a scene from prehistoric times, grey dry mud covering everything, with dead uprooted tree trunks all over the place; maybe a dinosaur might appear at any moment and turn us upside down too! The road here was completely washed away in the typhoon, and now a new road has been built, like a great long snake winding its way over the grey mud into the distance. Two nearby houses lie broken in half, the outside walls washed away so we can see right into the bedrooms upstairs. The mud came up the ceiling of the ground floor rooms.

We pass through Bao-Rong, just before Jia-Shian. St. Timothy's have been doing some outreach at the local primary school. In fact over 40 children have registered for next Monday's children holiday club.



We arrive in Jia-Shian, located on the far side of the valley. The bridge was washed away in the typhoon, but the side-supports still stand in place. Clearly this is not the first time this has happened, and the remains of past bridges lie in ruins on each



side. Workers however are much in evidence and there are cranes and diggers everywhere. A new road has been built across the valley with hollow iron cylinders for the water to pass through.

We drive up to the Jia-Shian apartment. It's the tallest building in town by far, standing like some sort of monument on the edge of town. It is also right on the edge of a tributary stream next to another broken bridge (see photo above).

On the other side of the river, where the road used to go, is a signpost, pointing to Shiao-Lin, 12 km away. Shiao-Lin is the site of the village that was completely buried in mud during the typhoon, with the remains of many people still buried there.

We arrive at 9:30 am, and the Thanksgiving Service is due to start at 10:00 am, so we have time to go up to the roof of the apartment building and see the view. It is misty which does

not do well for the view, but adds to a sense of mystery and atmosphere!

We gather in the new apartment for the service (see photo left). About 50 people have come, most from St. Timothy's, but also a



car load from St. Mark's, Ping-Tung, and 9 local people from Jia-Shian itself. The service is mostly in Taiwanese with songs in Chinese, and the gospel is read by the rector of St. Timothy's, Rev. Justin Lin, in both languages. As he starts the sermon, Bishop Lai kindly asks in Chinese if there is anyone who does not understand Taiwanese and I raise my hand, the only one! But I suggest he preaches in Taiwanese anyway. Bishop's theme is 'At all times let us give thanks and praise to the Lord.' After communion, we watch the DVD prepared by St. Timothy's in honor of their 40th anniversary as a congregation, and 10th anniversary of their church building, celebrated earlier this month.

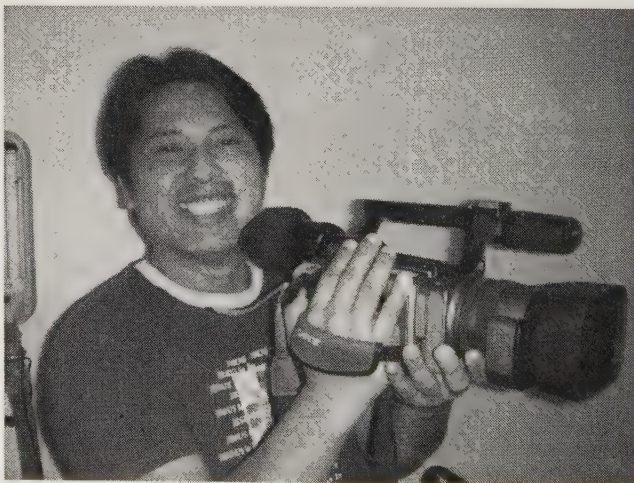
Then follows the long-awaited meal, delicious as always! The ladies of St. Timothy's really know how to cook and always put their skills to good use. Over the meal (photo above), I meet Mr. and Mrs. Sher and their daughter. Mr. Sher is a high-school classmate of Bishop Lai's and the family are now members of St. Timothy's. Their daughter is a teacher in Jia-Shian Primary School, and it is partly through her connections that this outreach was able to get started in the first place (see photo far right).

Throughout all these celebrations, Mr. Arthur Sung (photo right) is running around filming everyone and everything, and trying to keep track of the power point and all the local people

coming and going. He is a lay member of St. Timothy's, responsible for the Jia-Shian outreach. He tells me he works in software and his time is flexible, thus he is able to spend lots of his spare time in Jia-Shian. Thank God for people like him!

After we leave, I ask for a tour of the town and we pass the Jia-Shian Primary School. We also head into the main street where taro is the main feature. Taro is a root vegetable that grows everywhere locally and the main specialty is taro ice-cream, NT\$ 10 a scoop. All the local people are selling it, and everyone seems to have a cage full of squirrels out front. In one cage are 6 squirrels racing around. In another cage the lady says the big furry thing not moving is a flying squirrel. It won't be flying far today seeing it could hardly stretch its wings in the cage. Another furry thing is covered in a cloth, too cold the lady says, to let it out.

We head back to Kaohsiung, via a tour of the churchwarden's factories in nearby Ping-Tung County. He and his brothers run a number of pharmaceutical companies, with a total of over 200 employees. He tells me he and his family were originally Presbyterians but joined the Episcopal Church when he was a teenager, to support his mother's brother, Rev. Richard Ou, when he became an Episcopal priest. It's a small world, the Taiwan Episcopal Church; everyone is related to everyone else!



Later on Saturday evening, St. Timothy's is having its Youth Group, and Arthur Sung shares with them about next weekend's activity. They have 30 5th and 6th graders from Jia-Shian Primary School coming for the weekend to St. Timothy's Church. For many it will be their first visit to Kaohsiung and each member of the St. Timothy's Youth Group will be assigned a young person from Jia-Shian for them to take care of throughout the weekend. I am amazed at the way St. Timothy's young people accept the responsibility. Many children here would be afraid or too shy to take care of strangers, but St. Timothy's are being trained in reaching out to help others.

The next day, I am surprised to find that at the morning service at St. Timothy's, Rev. Justin Lin preaches in Chinese, not Taiwanese. He too admits it is extremely rare! This, after all, is a Taiwanese-speaking church. He shares the vision of the church for the next year, and the outreach at Jia-Shian. The outreach is the responsibility of the whole St. Timothy's Church. Every group within the church is responsible for outreach to that particular group of people

Mr. and Mrs. Sher and their daughter together with Bishop and Lily Lai



in Jia-Shian. So the women's fellowship group at St. Timothy's is responsible for developing the outreach among the women at Jia-Shian, for example. Justin challenges the congregation about the next step. What we really need, he says, is for some long-term commitments from some of our church members to actually move to Jia-Shian and live there long-term to develop the ministry. Pray about it, he says. And so we will! Please do join with us in prayer for the Jia-Shian outreach!



Jia-Shian Thanksgiving Service: January 23, 2010

ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG

Rev. Justin Lin Jun-Ming 林俊明牧師

Many congratulations to St. Timothy's Church! As you can see from the photo below, the New Year got under way with a great celebration on January 9, 2010, when the church and congregation of St. Timothy's celebrated the 40th anniversary of the foundation of our congregation, and the 10th anniversary of the St. Timothy's Church building. For 30 years, the St. Timothy's congregation had gathered for worship each Sunday in a room at St. Paul's Church, Kaohsiung, ever longing and dreaming that one day we would have a church building of our own. That dream came true 10 years ago when St. Timothy's Church was built on the site that had formerly been the St. Paul's Clinic. St. Timothy's has always used Taiwanese language in worship, while St. Paul's has always used Mandarin Chinese. The celebration Eucha-

rist was led by Bishop Lai and attended by about 120 people from all over Taiwan, including church members from as far north as St. James' in Taichung. There was a celebration meal following the service and presentation of souvenirs. Those who attended the service were particularly impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication as well as the sheer numbers of young people in the youth group at St. Timothy's. Praise God for this great celebration!

St. Timothy's continues to be a hive of activity on all days of the week, all weeks of the year. Over Christmas, there were short services of blessing held in a total of 45 different family homes for church members and friends. Thank God for the involvement of St. Timothy's at Jia-Shian, Kaohsiung County since the typhoon disaster.



台灣聖公會高雄聖提摩太堂設教四十週年建教十週年感恩禮拜合影 2010年1月9日

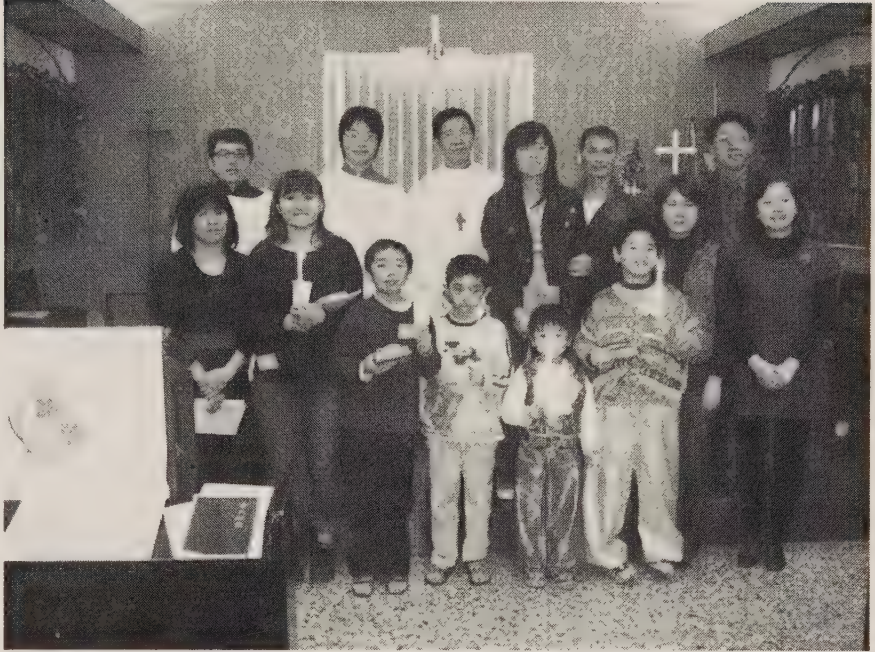
GRACE CHURCH, TAINAN

Rev. Sam Cheng Ching-San 鄭慶三牧師

The China Children's Fund was originally founded in Virginia, USA in 1938 to help the thousands of homeless Chinese children orphaned during the Second World War. They later changed their name to the Chinese Children's Fund, and most recently to the Taiwan Fund for Children and Families (TFCF).

This is a Christian organization, and is widely supported by churches throughout Taiwan. This year Grace Church decided to donate the proceeds of our annual bazaar to TFCF. The bazaar was held on December 18 and was a joint venture for the church and kindergarten. Over 240 people came, and NT\$ 64,000 was raised, praise God!

We welcomed over 70 people to our Christmas Eve service at Grace Church. Christmas Day was on a Friday and a normal working and school day, so our main service as usual was on Christmas Eve. We thank God that we had 5 baptisms on Christmas Eve. See the photo! Four of these were elementary school children, and one was a teenager. All are children of families who have recently become Christians, and their parents have been baptized within the last few years. Kindergarten parents, adult students in the Grace Church aerobics classes (run by Julie, Rev. Sam Cheng's wife) as well as church members all attended our Christmas service. There were performances by the children of sing-



ing and dancing, the mandolin group, the church choir, women's choir and kindergarten teachers' choir. After the service, at about 9:30 pm, a group of about 12 of us went out around the neighborhood carol-singing and sharing the Good News of Christmas.

We have had many visitors this past semester. On October 30, 36 first-year students from Tainan Theological College came to our Sunday service. Bishop Lai came for that occasion too, to preach and to celebrate the Eucharist. On November 7, we were pleased to welcome 20 first-year students from the Christian Education course at Chang-Rung University, Tainan to our Sunday service. Rev. Sam Cheng celebrated the Eucharist on that occasion and retired priest, Rev Samuel Liao preached. A big welcome to you all!

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CHIA-YI

Rev. Keith Lee Jen-Cheng 李鎮丞牧師

Our Christmas celebrations started on December 19 with a Christmas Show and party, with performances of children for the families of those who attend our weekend 'joy camp', usually held every Saturday during term time. There were all sorts of performances of children on different instruments - violin, drums, saxophone, guitar, as well as choirs and dancing, and sharing of the Christmas story. There were about 40-50 children who came along, and the same number of parents and family members. After the show, we enjoyed tea-time together. It was a lovely day, and we do thank God for the wonderful weather that we had, everyone was so happy!

On December 24, Christmas Eve, we had a potluck dinner for about 40-50 people. All the church members invited their friends

and relatives. After the dinner, we had our Christmas Eve service. The church was full, with more than 60 people.

On December 26, Chia-Yi City Government held a huge Band Festival. People came from all over Taiwan. All the schools in Chia-Yi City participated and sent groups of people along. Everyone marched from Chia-Yi City Hall to the sports stadium, a distance of about 3 km. The march was led by marching bands from all over Taiwan, for example, Taipei Girls' High school, the army schools, Taichung Girls Marching Band, in fact every city sent along its most famous marching band. There were also

marching bands from Thailand, Japan and Mainland China.

St. Peter's Kindergarten and 'an-chin-ban' combined to take part in the festival. About 50 children and many parents assembled near the sports stadium and we walked the short distance together. Our children performed so well, they danced and sang and showed off a huge Noah's Ark we had made. In fact we were honored to win a prize for the best private kindergarten. There were thousands of people, and it was such a wonderful witness and testimony.

We felt so proud of St. Peter's Kindergarten! Bishop Lai also came along and filmed the event.

After the festival, Bishop Lai and all the kindergarten teachers had a nice lunch to-

gether. In the afternoon the young people of the church went carol singing and sharing the Good News around the neighborhood. This was a 5 hour event and in the middle, we all gathered for a wonderful dinner invited by Bishop John Chien.

On December 27, we went to Mr. and Mrs. Chao's new home for a house blessing and to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary (see photo). Their 3 children all live overseas, but all had come back for this special occasion, along with family, friends and about 30 church members. We were all invited to the China Trust Hotel for a dinner to celebrate this happy day.



ST. PETER'S KINDERGARTEN: December 26, 2009

Chia-Yi International Band Festival

Ms. Cheng, St. Peter's Kindergarten



very difficult in a musical manner to tell a Bible story in two minutes but thank God for giving us strength to finish the hardest work.

Kindergarten kids, After-school Care kids, parents and teachers devoted themselves to this performance. From the brainstorming, costumes to music, all showed our cohesion and teamwork. Although at the very beginning we wanted to give up but we found that the more ideas that

In December in Chia-Yi City, the streets are always filled with wind band musical activities and atmosphere. This year for all the St. Peter's kids, parents and teachers, Chia-Yi International Wind Band Festival was very significant for them. This is the first time we took part in this special event to celebrate this special holiday.

came out, the more confidence we had. On December 26, it touched all our hearts when we finally performed the whole show to the

audience. We were very happy to receive the "Accreditation Recommended Award" this year. Thank you for all the support, parents, teachers, pastor and Bishop.



When we discussed what topic we should focus on for the Band Festival Parade, we collected many different ideas. Finally, we came to a conclusion. We decided to use the Bible story as our topic: Noah's Ark ~The Light of the Rainbow ~ Looking Forward to the coming 2010. In our performance we showed a rainbow, an ark, waves and pairs of animals. When the flood came, the pairs of animals went into the ark to be protected. When the flood was over, all the animals walked out from the ark to continue their lives. At the end of our performance, our team presented a "Cross" (see photo above) and a word "Love". Through the Cross and Love, we reminded people to remember God's grace. Also the rainbow represents God's eternal promise to his people. It is

(Romans 8:28) "And we know that all things work together for good to those

who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose". We expect to have more opportunities to show God's love in the future.



ST. MARK'S CHURCH, PING-TUNG

Mr. James Su Guo-Chin 蘇國欽傳道

Our weekend 'joy camp' is going well this semester, and on November 14, we had a special event when we also invited the parents of the children to come along too. On that occasion, we invited Evangelist James Su's sister-in-law from St. Timothy's Church to come and share with the parents about how parents can help their children. 17 children come

every week, and this time they were accompanied by about 15 parents and church members. Every Saturday we meet for 2 hours of singing, Bible stories and teaching, handicraft and games. It is great fun!

On December 19, we held our Christmas Show and party. We invited St. Timothy's



Drama Group to come and perform the Christmas Story for us along with singing and a lucky draw for Christmas gifts. An extra treat was that we had the grand total of 5 Santa Claus's (see photo)! About 60 people came altogether, and we had a very happy time!



On December 24, Rev. Stephen Hu came to St. Mark's to celebrate the Eucharist for us for Christmas Eve. On December 26, a large group of 26 of us went carol singing and sharing of the Good News around the local hospital wards and charity organizations, giving out presents and singing, sharing the Good News of Christmas.

ST. ANDREW'S KINDERGARTEN, JIE-DING

Mr. Simon Tsou Tsai-Shin 鄒才新傳道

Thank be to God! On December 12, we held the school carnival / bazaar at St. Andrew's Kindergarten, Jie-Ding. Such an activity as this has not been held here for a long time.

First of all, we must thank the Supervisor of St. Andrew's Kindergarten, Rev. Richard and Mrs. Ou for their valuable support, and also thanks to all the churches in the southern deanery. If we hadn't had their help, there's no way we could have done this so successfully. They were all so happy to join this carnival. We also want to express our deep gratitude to the kindergarten teachers and parents for their participation. Everyone was so excited!

The carnival far exceeded the anticipated number of people attending on that day. We estimate that between 500-600 people came along. The amount of money raised was nearly NT\$ 100,000. Of this we donated NT\$ 70,000 to Heng-Chun Christian Hospital in Kenting. This money will be used to help those affected by Typhoon Morakot last summer.

The photos show Bishop and Mrs. Lai at the carnival, including Bishop Lai inspecting the gong that people bang



when making a donation!

Apart from raising money, we also wanted to introduce church news to the community. Now we have two senior high school student who have joined our guitar class. We hope more people will come to join us.

Through this carnival, and the response and feedback of the parents and local community, we know that every-

one thought it was very meaningful and



St. Andrew's Kindergarten supervisor, Mrs. Ou (center) and teachers, with Evangelist Simon Tsou, back right

worthwhile.

Please pray for us, about the works at St. Andrew's Kindergarten and mission.

Thank you!

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, KANG-SHAN

Rev. Leo Tzeng Wen-Bin 曾文斌牧師

October 26 was the date of the Festival to celebrate Senior Citizens. Here in All Saints, we celebrated the day before with a delicious lunch in a local restaurant after the Sunday service. We had 3 tables, with about 25 people.

Our recent adult Sunday School program has just completed a series on Old Testament commandments and the wisdom books. This finished on January 3. Now we are starting on an introduction to the New Testament. About 10 people attend the classes regularly.

Our Christmas activities started on December 6, when we were invited by Kang-Shan Presbyterian Church to join with them and one other church in a 'Gospel Bazaar' on the Sunday afternoon. The follow-up from this was that on 3 evenings from December 7-9, a group of our church members went to visit all the contacts that we made at the bazaar. We visited a total of 12-14 homes, and to each home we presented them with a photo of themselves taken at the bazaar as well as a small gift. We especially invited them to attend the Christmas services and shared the Good News with them.



On December 12, we participated in the carnival bazaar at St. Andrew's Kindergarten. Our church was responsible for a game. It was great fun!

On December 19, we went out into the local community to do outreach and to share the Good News of Christmas. The local community area is divided into

2 areas, A and B. We visited both, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, both for 90 minutes each. At each event, we sang Christmas songs, shared the Christmas Story, and had a Q & A with prizes. Then



we shared tea and cookies with everyone. See the photo! At each place we had between 40-50 people, praise God! In the evening on that day, from 7:00-8:30 pm, we went out carol singing and sharing the Good News in the neighbor-

hood around All Saints Church.

On December 24, we held our Christmas Eve service from 7:30-9:30 pm. About 40 people came. After the service, we gave out breakfast boxes of cookies, drinks and a calendar to everyone. We held our main potluck Christmas dinner after the Sunday service on December 27. It was certainly a great Christmas!

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG.

Rev. June Chou Yun-Guang 周韜光牧師

December 20 was the highlight of the pre-Christmas activities with a Christmas performance and Show for all the children and parents of the St. Paul's Kindergarten as well as church members and Sunday School members. A total of 230 people filled the church and listened and watched as the children performed. Everyone enjoyed themselves! We presented the Christmas Nativity Play, and the Sunday School performed a concert all playing different instruments and especially the ocarinas. It was a wonderful occasion, and so lovely to see so many happy smiling faces in the church! The photos show our Christmas celebrations at St. Paul's.

The daughter of Rev. June Chou is a lecturer in Jin-Nan University in Puli, Nantou. On November 15, a group of 6 of her research students (in education policy) came to visit Kaohsiung and June's daughter.



They also came to the service at St. Paul's. The students were thrilled to visit St. Paul's and some said that this was the first time they had ever entered a church. One of the young male students particularly was very moved that June offered to pray for his father who is very sick, and to put his name on the church prayer list. Such care and concern for these students made a deep impression on them, and they really enjoyed their visit to St. Paul's.



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, TAIPEI

Rev. Lily Chang Ling-Ling 張玲玲牧師, English congregation: Rev. Diane Wong



One of our most faithful and committed church members, known as Grandfather Lee (shown in the photo above) celebrated his 101st birthday in December. We celebrated with a lunch on December 14 in Taipei 101 (then the tallest building in the world, now no longer!) for about 20 members of the family, clergy and the wardens. We celebrated the day before on Sunday December 13 too, in the church service. Grandfather Lee is such a good example to all our younger church members, he is so faithful and even though he lives on the 3rd floor of an apartment building with no elevator, he still faithfully struggles down all those stairs to come to church once a month.

One of the highlights of this past semester has been the developing relationship with Yang-Ming High School, located directly across the road from Good Shepherd Church. A few months ago, the local government kindly agreed to pay the salary of a youth worker to be based at Good Shepherd and to be responsible for helping high school dropouts and those with problems at school. A young man, Mr. Peng Ji-Min was appointed. As well as developing this new ministry, we praise God that he himself was also baptized on Christmas Eve. Together with Miss Ke Ya-Shin, one of the social workers in the seniors ministry, and Mr. Liang Sheng-Kun, a newly-appointed worker in the senior ministry and youth

ministry, we have started after-school classes for 15 children from Yang-Ming Junior High School. These children were chosen especially by the school as needing extra help in their studies. All live locally, but most have problems at home, or parents work very late, and so have no one to supervise their homework, or no-one to care for them. They come to Good Shepherd Church on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 5:00-9:00 pm for a meal, then help with their homework and extra classes in maths, Chinese and English. On Saturday afternoons they also come for 2½ hours of games, gospel sharing, activities and fellowship. The group also attended the Christmas Eve service, partly because it overlapped with their classes, and also to support Ji-Min at his baptism.

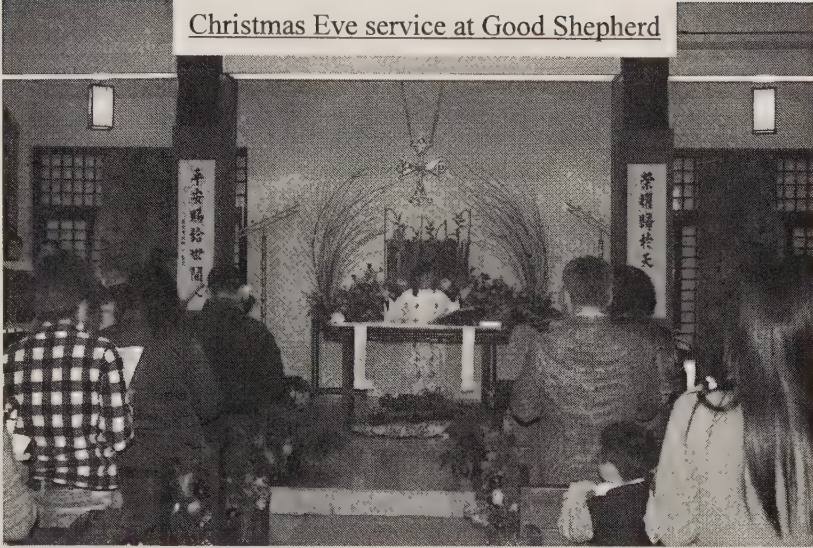
Please do pray for this new ministry and the outreach to these young people. In Yang-Ming Senior High School, we have also been invited to lead their English club on Friday afternoons, and through this we were invited to participate in the switching-on of their Christmas lights on December 23. At this event, Rev. Lily Chang was invited especially to lead a prayer for the students, a special opportunity indeed!

On Christmas Eve, we were honored to be able to welcome 4 people for baptism (shown in the photo right). All are from non-Christian or recently-converted families. One young man was baptized, his mother had been baptized last Easter at Good Shepherd. Two of those baptized were girls in their 20's, both have boyfriends who are our church members. Let me tell you the story of one of these girls. Her name is Miss Lai Shin-Hwei, and her boyfriend is Mr. Chang Fan. Last year in 2009, Mr. Chang Fan started to come to Good Shepherd Church. He studied at Fu-Jen R. C. University in Taipei and started to attend the church services there. He found

that he loved the R. C. liturgy but did not like the R. C. Church. He tried the Presbyterians and many other churches, but did not find a church

that he liked. Then someone invited him to Good Shepherd and he knew then that he had found his spiritual home. He was baptized in Good Shepherd at Easter 2009. The problem then was his girlfriend ~ she just did not want to come to church! Mr. Chang Fan joined a Good Shepherd cell-group and the group members encouraged him to bring his girlfriend to church. She very reluctantly started to attend the services, but was determined not to enjoy them. She insisted that she was there only to accompany her boyfriend. The cell group prayed for her throughout the year and encouraged them both. One day a few months ago, the girlfriend, Miss Lai Shin-Hwei said she wanted to talk to Rev. Lily Chang after the service. Lily assumed that they had some

Christmas Eve service at Good Shepherd



problem in their relationship and wanted to discuss it. Everyone in the church after all, knew that she did not like church! But no, instead Miss Lai

asked Lily: "How can I become a Christian?" Miss Lai said that when she was in the church service, she had heard the words "You must take this faith seriously". The Holy Spirit had spoken to her. Usually at the time of communion, she had remained in her seat, but she had recently started to go forward for a blessing. On this occasion, she had started to cry at the time of the communion blessing and she didn't know why. Lily shared the gospel with her, and Miss Lai made a commitment then and there to become a Christian. A few days later, it was clear to everyone that she had changed in a big way, she was so happy! Everyone has noticed how much she has changed. She used to be so sullen and angry every week, accompanying her boy-

friend to church, and no-one wanted to approach her. She suddenly changed! At one of the Advent family services, Lily invited her to share her testimony and everyone was amazed. Miss Lai shared: "Before I became a Christian, life had no meaning, but now I know the meaning of life!" Praise God for her glorious conversion and her baptism on Christmas Eve.



GOOD SHEPHERD ENGLISH CONGREGATION:

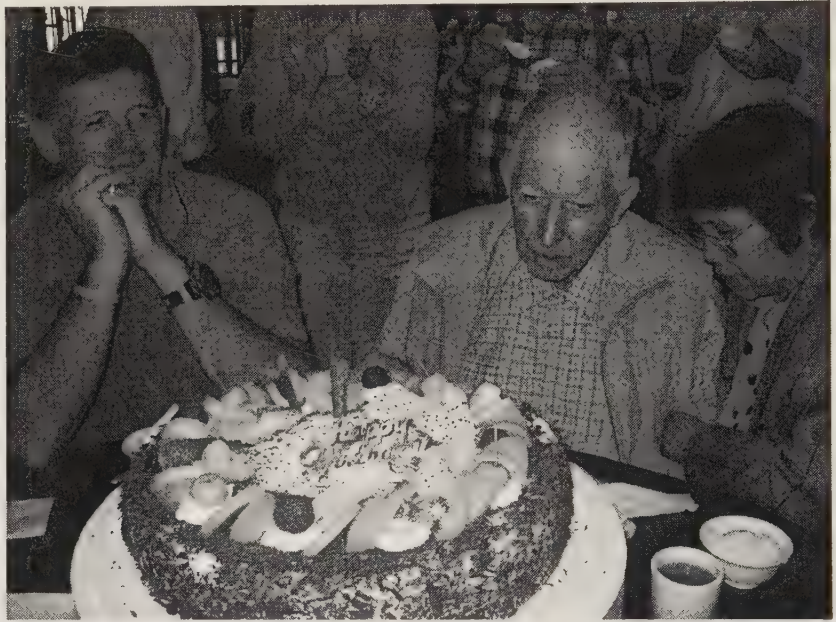
Rev. Diane Wong

To be a part of God's miracle is a humbling and awesome experience. Before I actually arrived in Taipei to begin my ministry with the English congregation, I was informed that the congregation would like to form a choir. Church music is not my expertise, but I know music enriches Sunday worship, and a choir is a wonderful way to attract and welcome new people. So I prayed for God's help with my deficiency, and I contacted the organist from my previous parish for music pieces suitable for a small choir. But because of the transient nature of an expatriate congregation and the different stages of life people go through, the forming of a choir remained just an idea rather than a reality until November 2009, 3 years later.

By the grace and mystery of God, someone who arrived in Taiwan just recently, after worshipping with us for a couple of times, stepped forward to form a choir for us; no persuading, no cajoling, no begging; just like that. It took a bit more convincing of the people who felt they did not have the gift of singing to give it a try. The experience of singing varied among the choir; some never had voice lessons and some sang with a choir for years. Yet with four rehearsals, they debuted at the service of Advent Lessons and Carols in early December; and God turned their offering into a beautiful gift. That was truly awesome.

Rabbi Harold Kushner said in one of his

books that "patience with people is love; patience with God is faith." I can not take credit for my faith; I actually let the idea go. That's why it is so humbling; God does not forget our prayers and requests.



To be a part of the important junctures of people's lives is a joyful and humbling experience too. In this past year, the congregation, among other things, celebrated the 70th birthday of one member, the eighty-third birthday of another member, the baptism of a one year old baby, and the 25th wedding anniversary of a couple. While it maybe easier for me to be involved in these junctures by nature of my role, it is the grace of God, and the love and openness of the people that I can share these joyful moments with them. It would be a mistake to presume otherwise.

I would like to remember God's grace and people's love as I begin a new year, and my last year, with this congregation.

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, TAIPEI

Rev. Samuel Lin Ying-Chiou 林應求牧正

Thank God, all the discipleship courses started though our vision of global evangelization are continuing well. From October to December, 16 people attended the 1st term of

the 'Soldier' Course; also, 11 people attended the 2nd term of the 'Discipleship' Course. In addition, the 10th term of the Alpha Course ended on December 16, and quite a few new members of this course are planning to be baptized at Easter 2010. Furthermore, the advanced level discipleship courses commenced at the beginning of January 2010. Also, five new Home Groups started in early January.



In November, it was a season of 'harvest'! On All Saints Day, 11 people received baptism. On November 15, a mother and her son received baptism; we also had a confirmation service with Bishop Lai (shown in the top photo). 12 adults and 10 young people

received confirmation, also 4 people were received in the church. All those who attended were touched by the wonderful work of God and are joyful

for those new members in the church.



203 people attended the Christmas Eve service on December 24. There was a Christmas Festival of Lessons and Music Sunday Service held on December 27 (see photos). That service began with the women's group on the Taiko drums, and followed by choirs from different age groups. 338 people attended that service and around 280 people attended the banquet that followed in the yard of the church.



TRINITY CHURCH, KEELUNG

Rev. Richard Lee Ray-Chiang 李瑞強牧師

Inspired by our great cycling trip that the young people of Trinity Church went on during the summer vacation, the young people are going on more exciting adventures each month. These experiences are proving to be helpful to them all, spiritually, physically and emotionally. During November, over 20 young people, both junior high school students and senior high school students, went on a mountain climbing expedition walking across the mountains from Wu-Lai to Ilan. This was a full 2 days of walking, and on the Sunday morning we held a prayer service during the walk. The total distance was about 32 km. Overnight we camped in tents and all equipment had to be carried ourselves. On the final afternoon, we were



to cooperate with carrying all the equipment and share and help each other. See the photos!

On Saturday December 19, Trinity held a Basketball Competition for all the young

people of the church and their friends. A total of over 80 young people came along! After the competition there was a time of sharing and testimonies. Over 10 young people gave their lives to Christ, of which 8 are continuing to come along to attend the small fellowship groups.

For the adults, there was a big Christmas meal on the evening of December 25. 4 tables of people with a total of 35 adults enjoyed eating and sharing together. 20 of

these were non-Christians. After the meal there were performances and sharing. 2 people were baptized on Christmas Eve, one adult and one youngster. Praise God!

able to return to Keelung via the hot springs where we could relax and wash off all the dirt! For all the young people, this was their first time to do such strenuous mountain walking and it involved a lot of cooperation walking as a team as they were able



ST. STEPHEN'S MISSION, KEELUNG

Mrs. Julia Lin Shu-Hua 林淑華會吏

Congratulations to Mrs. Julia Lin, who was ordained deacon on November 21 at St. John's Cathedral! Bishop Lai said that he wanted this to be a Christmas gift to the people of St. Stephen's. In fact a coach load

Deacon Julia Lin's first baptism service!



of friends from St. Stephen's came to the ordination service at the cathedral and sang a very lovely song during the service. See the photos!

Please do pray for us at St. Stephen's as we seek to buy a place to put down more permanent roots in the community. As reported in the previous issue, the United Thank Offering of ECUSA has kindly granted US\$ 50,000 to St. Stephen's for the purpose of buying an apartment or place to use by the mission. Finding the right place at the right price and available now is proving very difficult! Please do pray that there may be a breakthrough in this process.



ADVENT CHURCH, TAMSUI

Rev Lennon Chang Yuan-Rong 張員榮牧師

Advent church has 7 cell groups, all meeting weekly, some on Sunday afternoons, others during the week.



cluded in the service. This time, 2009, we thank God that 13 people were baptized (see

During Advent, we all move location and the cell group visits members of the group at home for a family service taking with them the Advent wreath, lighting the candles, and then having a time of fellowship. For all, this is a wonderful time to show hospitality to one another and is much appreciated by everyone. During Advent also, Rev. Lennon Chang, as Chaplain, together with the chaplaincy team, go around to every office and department at St. John's University once a week. Every office has their own Advent wreath and we hold a short service, a song, reading and prayer for the people gathered. On the final visit, Christmas Eve, a group of students comes along too, with some dressed as Santa Claus. The office staff all give sweets and candies to the carol singers. During the early evening of Christmas Eve, a large group of students gathers to go carol singing and to bring Christmas greetings to all the dormitories and many classrooms, also the local shops and the student canteens. They distribute the candies collected in the afternoon from the offices.

Then later in the evening, we all gather in Advent Church for the Christmas Eve service. Christmas Eve in 2009, the service started at 8:30 pm, and lasted until almost 11:00 pm with a wonderful 35 minute program of Christmas carols and readings in-

photo). Baptism at Advent Church is in the baptism pool, so people can choose whether only their heads get wet, or they kneel down in the water and get water poured all over them. This year was cold and the water even colder! This year too, we had 3 university students baptized, all of whom had been on the mission trip to Malaysia last August. 2 other students, who had also been to Malaysia, were moved to be baptized, but had to withdraw at the last minute due to parental opposition. 6 of those baptized were children in Advent Church Sunday School, all at elementary school. On January 17 Bishop Lai came to Advent Church for the confirmation of 9 people.

Advent Church also continues its regular program of study classes for local children. On Wednesday afternoons 15 elementary school children come for study and Bible class plus an English Bible class. On Saturday afternoons it is the turn of local junior high school children, most of whom then stay on for the evening youth group.

Advent Church continues to actively fund-raise in aid of the construction of the new Advent Church Center, as shared in the last issue of Friendship Magazine. We are hoping for 900 people to contribute. Please join us in prayer for this fund-raising program.

LAO-MEI VILLAGE OUTREACH

In the last issue of Friendship Magazine, we shared with you about the outreach program in Lao-Mei Village, about 8 miles north of Advent Church on the northern coast of Taiwan. After the summer outreach camp for 3 days in 2009, we then planned to start a Sunday School program in the autumn of 2009. This was delayed and delayed, waiting for permission from various Roman Catholic authorities who own the building where we wanted to have the outreach. Finally at the beginning of November 2009 we were able to start, although even then we were only given permission to use the building until the end of the year, when a new R. C. priest takes charge.

Through November and December we held the Sunday School every Sunday afternoon from 2:00 until 3:30 pm with games, singing, Bible story, Bible verse, quiz and craft



work. Each time between about 15 and 25 children came along, helped by about 5 students and church members from Advent Church. On the Sunday before Christmas over 40 children came along for a wonderful Christmas party (see photo below) with fun and games and the Christmas story in drama, plus Santa distributing gifts to everyone (here he is being interviewed by Hannah, Sunday school supervisor!).

Please do pray for us for the next semester, for permission from the RC authorities, as we seek once again to share the good news with the children and people of Lao-Mei Village. Pray for our relationships with the local community and their leaders, who are very supportive of this ministry. This is a valuable outreach program of Advent Church and has the support of the whole diocese.



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, TAMSUI

This past semester, St. John's University has been completely dominated by the construction of the gigantic new buildings that are being built right in the center of the school campus. Construction has been ongoing seven days a week with no rest for vacation, only overnight is there any quiet! It is essential that the main buildings are completed exactly according to the original plans (see model below) in time for the inspection by the Department of Education inspectors within the next few months.

Once the license has been granted to certify the buildings, then some improvements and changes can be made. For example, the original plan leaves a large open space for the main entrance, but with this winter's bitterly cold winds, we now realize it is necessary to install main entrance doors. These must be installed after the license has been granted. At the time of writing, the main buildings are more or less completed, but the builders have been waiting for the school vacation to do the layout of the road plan and the landscaping, which is now underway. The plan is for the celebrations to open the new buildings to be held at the same time as the annual 'homecoming' school celebrations on Saturday May 1, 2010.

With the birth rate dropping in Taiwan, and the huge increase in the number of institutions upgraded to university status in the last few years, many universities are very worried about their admissions for the future. St. John's University is no exception and spends a lot of money and time trying to attract new students each year. Recent political changes have opened up the possibility in the future for students from Mainland China to come to study in Taiwan, on short-term student exchange programs as well as

possible long-term students. With a view to this becoming a reality sometime in the future, we have welcomed visitor delegations from universities in Mainland China, here to discuss and sign Memorandums of Understanding (MOU); and President Chen and delegations from St. John's University have visited universities in Mainland China also to sign MOU's. So far, we have 5 sister schools in Mainland China.

A major area of concern is safety. St. John's University is located right on a busy main road and with large numbers of students and staff entering and exiting the campus on foot, motorbikes, cars and buses, it is surprising that there have not been more accidents. But accidents do happen regularly, and every year there are 2 or 3 fatal ones. Most involve motorbikes, some here, others elsewhere in Taipei. Motorbikes are barred from entering the campus, but finding safe parking for them nearby is difficult. There are regular meetings to discuss how best to lay out the roads in and around the campus, but no totally satisfactory way has been found so far. With the construction work on and around the campus at present, it is even more dangerous than usual, and police and university security guards are required to supervise traffic at busy times.



ST. JAMES' CHURCH, TAICHUNG

Rev. Charles Chen Chin-Ti, Rector Emeritus 陳金地顧問牧師

Rev. Philip Lin Li-Feng 林立峰牧師 Mr. Philip Ho Jeng-Long 何政隆傳道

'One Plus Four'--Glory to our Lord in the Highest at St. James'

Philip Ho Jeng-Long

This was the most unprecedented and unrepeatable Christmas Eve for St. James' Church since 1955. It is hard to explain why we have this amazing grace at the end of 2009!

With God's mercy, we have gone joyfully through this past year. Gratefully, we planned to collect money on December 20, 24 and 27 for two Christian organizations to help their affairs in caring for people in need during this Christmas season. Finally, we collected NT\$ 90,904.00; we divided this into two parts. One was for the 'Eden Social Welfare Foundation' and we gave them NT\$ 50,000.00; the other was for St. Stephen's Mission in Keelung, we gave them NT\$ 40,904.00. The joyful situation for us was that our retired Bishop John Chien came to preach the sermon for us on December 20 and attended the celebration of raising money that afternoon.



From left: Ms. Sue, Director of Eden,
Bishop John Chien, Missioner Philip Ho



From left: Ms. Sue, Director of Eden,
and two blind singers from Eden

Originally, in the November Calendar Schedule Bishop Lai was not scheduled to come to St. James' for the Christmas Eve Service. Due to our Curate, Rev. Philip Lin, being sent to pursue further education in Ming-Hua Theological College Hong Kong, we only had a plan to invite our honorary retired rector Dr. Charles Chen to be our Celebrant and give baptism for a few sisters and brothers.

As days went into December, we were notified that Bishop Lai would come to visit St. James' on December 24 and would be the Celebrant for the Christmas Eve Service. Gradually, there formed a nice arrangement that the Rev. Canon Dr. David Chee and Rev. Samuel Liao would come together to join in the Christmas Eve Service and the English congregation would combine together to have the same special Service.

An unbelievable new arrangement suddenly happened on the morning of Christmas Eve when Rev. Canon Dr. David Chee told me that the Rev. Jason Ke would also come to be one of the assisting clergy during the Holy Eucharist for the Christmas Eve Service in the evening. What an amazing arrangement it was! One Bishop and four retired priests came together to serve at the Holy Eucharist for the Christmas Eve Service. Oh, Lord you are so great to give this surprising arrangement for St. James' Church. We like to proclaim praising you as "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to St. James' Church people on whom your favor rests."



Gospel Reading: Rev. Rec. Dr. Charles Chen in English, Rev. Canon Dr. David Chee in Chinese



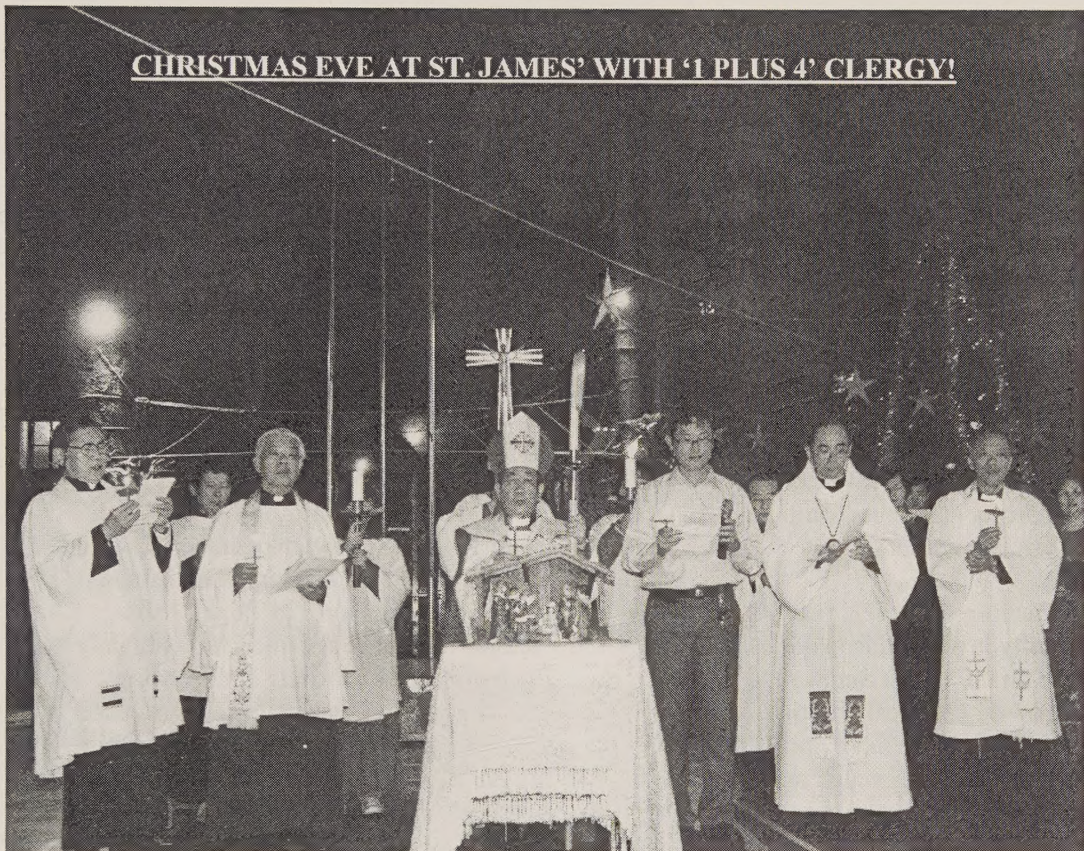
NT Reader: Mr. Didi Cenuster

We hope we can have more power given from our heavenly Father to make more evangelistic actions to get more than 40 people baptized into our church to honor our Lord in 2010. May all of the members of our St. James' Church become strong soldiers putting on the full armor of God to fight to win the prize which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus.

December 27th was a great Sunday for St. James' Church. Five sisters and brothers had their baptism by Rev. Philip Lin (shown in the left photo below), and six sisters and brothers had their confirmation by Bishop Lai (shown in the right photo below).



CHRISTMAS EVE AT ST. JAMES' WITH '1 PLUS 4' CLERGY!



Last praising hymn during Crèche Service, from left: honorary Rev. Rec. Dr. Charles Chen, the Rev. Jason Ke, Bishop David Lai, churchwarden Samuel Chen, Rev. David Chee, Rev. Samuel Liao



Many members of Youth Group of St. James' Church were very happy to take their picture with Mr. Xiu Hua-Jing (standing in the middle with a white coat) as a memory for his confirmation 23 years after his infant baptism. Mr. Xiu is the grandson of former vicar of St. James', Rev Harry Pan, and his mother is the current junior warden.

ST. JAMES' ENGLISH SERVICE

by Mr. Jerry Liang

1. Potluck lunch after service -- The potluck fellowship gathering is held once per month, on the first Sunday of each month. This is led by Rev. David Chee and we all like it very much, for during the lunch we always have free & happy conversations; chatting really enjoyably!

2. Sunday School -- This has been something new for the English congregation at St. James'. Small children are led and taught by Viola, a young member of ours who is now a senior student at Tung-Hai University (English Department).

3. Preaching -- For this new year, we have especially invited Bishop John Chien to preach on the fourth Sunday every month. (Rev. David Chee will continue to preach on the first and the third Sundays while Catherine Lee will preach on the second Sunday.)

4. Joint service on Christmas Eve -- We had a combined service with the Chinese con-

gregation on the evening of December 24, 2009. Rev. David Chee preached bilingually (firstly in English and then in Chinese), and his preaching was very meaningful, and successful. During the service our small choir (led by Mr. Hans Geiger) sang three songs. In addition, Mr. Axel Van Chee (son of Rev. Chee), was invited to join us on Christmas Eve. Being an excellent singer, he sang a solo during the service; all of us were amazed by his magnificent voice.

5. Outdoor service at Zhuo Lan, Miaoli County -- On Sunday, November 22, 2009, a group of us from St. James' and some from Good Shepherd, in Taipei, had a "retreat" outdoors at Zhuo Lan with Holy Eucharist in the morning and Evening Prayer at dusk. The English congregation at Good Shepherd and the English congregation at St. James' will carry on such kind of activities regularly, about two or three times in this New Year, 2010.

ST. JAMES / PHILIPPINES PARTNERSHIP

A few days before Christmas, Bishop Dixie Taclobao, Bishop of Central Philippines reported to us that the final church construction was now completed and the service of consecration was taking place at Grace Church, Palawan! The photo shows Grace Church ~its outside is bright green! Praise be to Almighty

God! There remains the construction of 2 wooden churches, these were originally church # 9, delayed to be church # 10 and divided into 2 wooden churches rather than one concrete church. The remaining funds have now been transferred to the Philip-



pines and the 12-year project is virtually completed. In thanksgiving and recognition of this, our final visit to the Diocese of Central Philippines will take place February 2-4, 2010. Bishop Lai and his wife will be coming with us, along with Rector Emeritus, Rev. Charles Chen and his wife. The highlight

will be a Thanksgiving Service at the Church of the Holy Carpenter Church, Nueva Ecija on Wednesday February 3. Thanks to be God for this wonderful partnership over the past 12 years and the 11 churches that have been constructed!

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, HUA-LIEN

Mr. Joseph Wu Ming-Long 吳明龍會吏

In December, St. Luke's Church held a 24-hour retreat which was attended by 8 of the church members and led by Rev. David Chee. In 2010 the church has now decided to follow up this with a devotional time every month. We also meet regularly on Saturday evenings for small group fellowship. Please pray for this small but very faithful group of church members.



*Let this be a sign to you:
in a manger you will find an infant
wrapped in swaddling clothes*

And finally: The Diocese of Taiwan has a new uniform!

During the relief work in the aftermath of Typhoon Morakot, one of the things that became clear as time went on was the need for the Christians in Taiwan to be able to identify themselves through wearing some kind of uniform. As a small minority of only 4% in a county overwhelmingly Buddhist and Taoist, the Christian community often works unseen and unknown. The Buddhist Relief Organization, the Tzu-Chi Foundation are much in evidence in Taiwan and easily identified by their dark blue uniforms.

Even the Tzu-Chi volunteers recommend us to find a uniform! Typhoon Morakot showed the Christian community how much such a uniform was necessary.

Since then, Bishop Lai and fellow members of the Christian Council of Taiwan have been busy discussing and planning for a



uniform to be made. The Tan family, who are church members at Advent Church, and who design and produce T-shirts and uniforms in their company, have designed a sleeveless jacket, and this has been adopted by the churches in Taiwan. It is bright purple in color and has 3 deep pockets. The idea is that each denomination can then emblazon their own logo on the front of the jacket. On ours, the red logo of the Diocese of Taiwan is printed on the top front. The diocese is

ordering the first batch and intends to offer them to church members at the bargain price of only NT\$ 100 each, the remaining NT\$ 400 subsidized by the diocese. The second batch onwards will all be sold at full price! (In the photo, the jacket is modeled by Huei-Ling, Bishop's secretary).

臺灣聖公會通訊

馬省人



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友愛

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The Rt. Rev. David
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Bishop of Taiwan

The LORD bless you
and keep you always!